

GRACE CHURCH VISITOR

A MONTHLY DEVOTED TO THE INTERESTS OF THE GRACE REFORMED CHURCH AND SUNDAY SCHOOL.

VOLUME IV.

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NUMBER 1.

PAPER READ BY MRS. A. K. FORTMAN

*At the Ladies' Missionary Society at
Bellevue, Ohio, Oct. 8th, 1891.*

The greatest work for every disciple of Christ to engage in is to carry into execution the command given by our blessed master, "Go ye into all the world and preach the Gospel to every creature."

This command bears with itself divine authority as well as a deep solicitude concerning the proclamation of His Gospel. It is one of the last commands from the lips of Christ to the eleven disciples.

Who is this wonderful personage who thus addresses them? It is He who calls Himself Master. It is Jesus. He shows us the wounds in His hands and feet, and His pierced side. He says of Himself, "I came not to judge the world but to save the world." This same command has been ringing down the corridors of time and comes to every true disciple to-day.

The great question of to-day is, "How can the immediate proclamation of the gospel to every creature be realized? We need not question how we shall gain access to the nations, for in the providence of God the long shut doors have been opened. The question of sufficient means should no longer be a cause for embarrassment. The aggregate wealth at the disposal of the church is so great that if one tenth were given it would suffice to sustain a half a million of workmen in the foreign field. Why then this delay? Why this lethargy in the church?

This is not a time for unoccupied hands and hearts. After all the effort of a century we have only just begun the work of evangelizing the world, let us make haste for the great king has commissioned us to go forth, His command demands immediate attention and to those who will obey He gives this inspiring promise, "Lo I am with you always, even unto the end of the world."

The motto for Christ's Church to-day should be, "Forget the things behind and push for the regions beyond."

During the past year it has been our privilege as never before, to look into

this matter as it concerns our own church. We have made some progress for which we are thankful. We have at least been able to see a deeper interest manifested in the work of home missions, but, we feel assured that the cause of foreign missions is not so well understood neither so interesting to our people as it should be. There are but few who know the facts as they really exist. We have been viewing the foreign field as Ptolemy viewed the starry heavens in the beginning of the second century. With the unaided eye he counted 1,026 stars. But when the telescope was pointed to the heavens by Galileo less than three centuries ago, the sayings of Jeremiah were verified. "The host of Heaven can not be numbered." How few there are who have viewed the facts concerning the foreign field face to face. We fear that there is much of willful ignorance upon this most important subject. How shall we get this matter clearly before the church so that our membership may heartily enter upon this enterprise of world-wide evangelization. Never will the people of God take up the work of missions as they ought, until they both understand and feel the emergency and extremity of the heathen world, and their own opportunity and duty with reference to it. The necessity of the hour is information. In this connection let me say that I am glad to know that within the last year two missionary magazines have been added to the literature of our church.

These should occupy a place in all of our homes, so that the children, as well as the parents may know the magnitude of the work before us, and that while we work, we may work intelligently.

There is much said about the world's destitution and degradation, but do we realize, to-night, that there are in the world to-day a thousand millions of heathen and Mohammedans? Three fourths of the human race have never heard of the Good Shepherd, the Savior of the world. They are to-night out upon the dark mountains of heathenism,

while we are seated in this comfortable little church, with God's word in our possession and his servants to proclaim it unto us. In this beautiful, and enlightened country of ours we may live, as it were, in the shadow, of church spires, while in Central Africa you can find a territory 1,000 miles long by half as broad, whose population when Stanley passed through, was forty millions, and these had never yet seen a minister of the gospel. What are 800 missionaries in China, among 380,000,000 of heathen? One missionary to a half a million people. In India there are about the same number of missionaries to 300,000,000 of souls. In Siam there are ten missionaries, and from eight to ten million of souls. Nearly a million of souls for every minister, while there are many cities with a population of 200,000 and not a single Bible reader or native teacher among them.

In all the world there are about six thousand missionaries representing about forty million Protestant church members. One missionary for every six thousand, and these church members raise for church purposes \$11,429,588 a year, an average of less than 30 cents a year per church member, less than one-tenth of a cent a day. The average giving of Christians in Christian lands to send the Gospel to the millions in heathen lands is about five cents a month per church member.

Is this the measure of our love for Christ? Let us remember that it is not what we say or sing that shows our love for Christ, but what we do.

I do not know what the average giving of our own church for foreign missions may be, but I do know that we have not raised sufficient money last year to meet our obligations. The Ladies Missionary Society of the Ohio Synod pledged the small sum of \$100 toward the support of an assistant teacher for our girls school at Sendai. In a recent letter from Mrs. S. P. Mosser, she says that we should increase our contributions 50 per cent.; but how shall we do this when we have only raised \$70 out of the \$100? Dr. Duff, that great missionary hero, said, "The Christian Church is just

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Board of Managers: Rev. A. K. Zartman, F. D. Paulus, and D. W. Souder.

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playing at missions." Think of what might be done if people were only in earnest. The Missionary societies organized by the women of the church, as I understand, are not for the purpose of helping to bear a burden that has for years been too light for the church. Our work should be an additional one and not a supplementary one. Let us get out of this rut and beyond it. The church is able to pay its classical apportionments without the aid of missionary societies, and if this can be realized in our own midst, the Society of the Ohio Synod can double its contributions for the Japan Mission during the coming year. There is much to encourage us in giving and praying for the conversion of the Japanese people. Dr. Pierson says Japan is ripe for the Christian religion. Japan is astonishing mankind. While the whole aspect of missionary work in Japan is promising it impresses us with a responsibility and duty that no language can sufficiently emphasize. We do not want to read of retracing steps, but of conquests made for Christ. We have a group of consecrated workers there who have unfurled the banner of our own beloved church.

I want to tell you to-night that these missionaries are ours. Their sacrifices, their sorrows and perplexities are ours. Do we appreciate the sacrifices they are gladly making for the sake of Christ and His kingdom? Do their tears of joy and sadness not move us to sympathy and action?

Shall we not study our duties to them and to our church as we have never done before? Trust not to feeling or impulse for direction. Many good efforts have been destroyed by inconsistencies, but trust to the dictates of an awakened conscience, and above all to the good hand of our God upon us showing us the way.

Oh! that every soul in this house may arise, in the strength of God, and in behalf of those around us who know not Christ and of the heathen millions in distant lands, pledge with deepest consideration, henceforth more love for Christ, more labor, more

sacrifice, more prayer that the sunshine of heaven, the religion of Christ, may rest upon every land. Christ for the world, and the world for Christ.

THE LADIES SOCIETY.

The ladies held a meeting after the services Sabbath morning, Feb. 21st, to elect officers with results as follows. President, Mrs. A. K. Zartman; Vice President, Mrs. F. D. Paulus; Secretary, Mrs. Charles Gumpfer; Treasurer, Mrs. Martin Couet. The Executive Committee appointed for the ensuing six months is constituted of the following ladies: Mrs. George Hesser, Mrs. Miller, Mrs. D. W. Souder.

The next monthly meeting of the Ladies society will be held Thursday, March 2nd, at 2:30 p. m. Every member of the society should be present at this meeting. Many of the ladies have fallen into arrears in their dues. This is too bad. Let every one come prepared to pay their dues in full at the next meeting. The Lord will. Mrs. Zartman expects to meet with the ladies at this meeting. The pastor hopes that the women of the church may prove by their work and energy that they have been profited by the sermon which he recently preached on "Woman's Work in the Church." The busy housewife must not forget that the Lord claims some of her time for his work. The coming monthly meeting should be made a rallying day for the women, when every lady of Grace Church should show her fidelity and consecration to the Lord by giving her presence at the meeting.

Mrs. Mary Tilbery, wife of Marquis Tilbery, was called away very unexpectedly from her family on the morning of Jan. 1st. Death came without a moment's warning. While seated at the table in the morning to eat her breakfast with the family, she was taken ill, and fell into the arms of her husband and in a few moments the spirit had taken its flight. How sad it is when we must part with our loved ones, but how much more distressing to our hearts when parting comes without any premonition. Mrs. Tilbery was a devoted wife and mother and a consistent Christian. She and her husband have been members of Grace Church some years. She leaves a family of husband and six children, one child having preceded her to the Heavenly Home. She was aged 34 years 1 month and 20 days. The funeral services were held

at the St. Joe Chapel, four miles north of the city, on Monday afternoon, Jan. 4th. The pastor was assisted in the service by the Rev. Mr. Tinkham of New Haven. May the Lord comfort the hearts of the bereaved family, and sustain them in their sorrow.

ABSTRACT FROM THE TREASURERS REPORTS.

Read at the Congregational Meeting January 1st.

CHURCH TREASURER.

Receipts from all sources.....\$992 90
Expenditures..... 977 66

Balance in Treasury \$ 15 24

WOMEN'S MISSIONARY AND AID SOCIETY.

Receipts.....\$1,041 73
Expenditures..... 120 45

Balance in Treasury \$ 921 28

SUNDAY SCHOOL.

Receipts.....\$207 58
Expenditures..... 179 61

Balance in Treasury \$ 27 97

YOUNG PEOPLE'S SOCIETY OF CHRISTIAN ENDEAVOR.

Receipts.....\$73 06
Expenditures..... 42 31

Balance in Treasury \$30 75

From the above it will be seen that the past year was financially a very prosperous one for Grace Church. Our church Treasurer was able to meet all the current expenses of the church for the year, and also to pay bills of the year previous to the amount of 100 or more dollars. The congregation will be gratified to learn that our receipts through the basket collections were so large for the past year.

The receipts of the Ladies Society were also larger than in former years. The Society has \$921.28 in the treasury. This amount is nearly all invested in the Tri-State Loan Association, and forms the nucleus of the church building fund. It is the intention of the Society to swell this amount as rapidly as possible, and we hope that by the close of the present year the same may be increased to \$2,000.

The Young Peoples' Society intends also to take some shares in the Loan. This is right. Let all our Societies fall in line, and join hands in accumulating money for the building fund. We shall trust that '92 may be a very successful year for the church, in its various departments of work.

Mrs. C. C. Gumpfer was called to Crestline, Ohio, Feb. 16th on account of the illness of her aged mother and a sister.

Mrs. Grub has been very ill and has been confined to the house for several weeks.

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SERVICES.

Sabbath morning, - - - - - 10:30
Sabbath evening, - - - - - 7:30
Sunday School, - - - - - 9:30
Y. P. S. C. E. Prayer meeting Sab. evening 6:30
Prayer meeting Wednesday evening - 7:20
Come and welcome to these services.

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F. D. PAULUS.	G. W. SOLIDAY.
D. W. SOUDER.	JOHN L. HORN.
E. G. PIERCE.	C. O. TROXELL.

Treasurer—JAMES E. LONERGAN.
Secretary—H. P. VORDERMARK.

SABBATH SCHOOL.

F. D. PAULUS—Superintendent.
D. W. SOUDER—Assistant Superintendent.
CHARLES GUMPPER—Secretary.
MRS. CHARLES GUMPPER—Treasurer.
EUGENE MATHIS—Librarian.

WOMEN'S MISSIONARY SOCIETY.

MRS. A. K. ZARTMAN—President
MRS. F. D. PAULUS—Vice President.
MRS. CHARLES GUMPPER—Secretary.
MRS. M. CONET—Treasurer.

Y. P. S. C. E.

A. K. ZARTMAN—President.
EUGENE MATHIS—Vice President.
NORA ROMY—Secretary.
EUGENE MATHIS—Treasurer.

Communion services Sabbath morning March 6th.

Renew your subscription to the VISITOR.

Arthur Hyman has been seriously ill for several weeks with rheumatism.

Mrs. D. W. Souder and daughter Anna spent the holidays with friends in Ohio.

Mrs. Walters has been quite sick and for a month or more has not been able to be out.

Mr. and Mrs. John Vordermark recently visited with their daughter Alice at Springfield, Ohio.

Mrs. French was ill during the first of January, but we are glad to know that she has about recovered.

The Annual Church Meeting Jan. 1st was a pleasant and harmonious one. Every person was pleased with the results of last year's work.

Now is the time to subscribe for the VISITOR. All the subscriptions expired with the December issue. Thus far only a few have been renewed.

Mr. and Mrs. John Bottger were called to their old home at Tyrone, Pa., about the 1st of Feb., on account of the sickness and death of Mrs. Bottger's mother. They have the sympathy of the members of Grace church in their sorrowful bereavement.

Mrs. Benj. Ashbaucher, of Bluffton made a very pleasant visit at the parsonage Feb. 17. Mrs. Ashbaucher is an estimable lady and an enthu-

siastic church worker. We wish very much that the Reformed church had hosts of such ladies.

Mr. and Mrs. R. Gavin spent the holidays with their daughter Mrs. McAndrew, at St. Thomas. They say they had a very pleasant visit.

Mr. and Mrs. Ezra Horn, after residing in the city for some five months, have gone back to their former home at Spencerville. We are sorry indeed that they could not remain with us. Both are excellent workers in the church, and we dislike to part with them very much.

Rev. D. S. Fouse spent Wednesday Feb. 24th with the pastor and family. In the evening he led the prayer meeting, giving a very interesting talk to the congregation on the subject of prayer. Rev. Fouse will always find a warm reception among the people of Grace church.

Abner Lantz and Nanna B. Freeman were married at the Grace church parlors, Thursday evening Feb. 4th. Some twenty or more invited guests were present to witness the ceremony. Mr. and Mrs. Lantz will reside near Thurman about eight miles east of the city. The VISITOR wishes them a prosperous and happy future.

Rev. D. S. Fouse preached at the Salem Reformed Church on Tuesday afternoon and evening Feb. 23rd. While in this congregation he raised about \$20 for church erection. Rev. Fouse is succeeding admirably in gathering funds for this purpose. We hope that the church may respond everywhere liberally to this need of the Board of missions.

Mrs. Hobson has been very sick for many weeks past. Her sufferings have been intense. She is patient and resigned to the will of her Heavenly Father. It is not a pleasure to see any one in suffering, but it has been a great pleasure to the pastor to visit this sister and to witness her fullness of joy and hope in trusting in the Lord Jesus. Truly the Lord is precious unto those who believe.

Our Winter Communion Service will be held Sabbath morning, March 6th. There will be services during the week previous, commencing with Wednesday evening. Inasmuch as we have not been able to have any special services so far this winter, we hope these meetings will be largely attended and with good results. There should be a number of accessions to the church on communion day. Let us pray that the Lord may give us many souls.

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References: The First National or Hamilton National Bank of Fort Wayne, Ind.

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Y. P. S. C. E. TOPICS.

Feb. 28. Consecration meeting.
A good man in trouble. Why? Jer. 37:15-21. Anna Vordermark.

March 6. Punishment for sin. Its certainty. Jer. 39:1-10. Dan. 9:11. Heb. 10:26-29. Oscar Miller.

March 13. What is God's covenant with us? Ezek. 36:27-28. Heb. 8:8-12. Birdie Saffern.

March 20. Praise service. Isa. 12. Eph. 5:19. James Romy.

March 27. Preparing the way of the Lord. Isa. 40:3-5. Luke 3:10-14. Etta Souder.

At the monthly meeting of the Young People's Society held Tuesday evening Feb. 16th, officers were elected as follows: President Rev. A. K. Zartman; Vice President, Eugene Mathis; Secretary, Nora Romy; Treasurer Eugene Mathis. The following committees have been appointed for the ensuing six months.

Lookout Committee. Lillie Walters, Eugene Mathis, Etta Souder.

Prayer Meeting Committee. Rev. A. K. Zartman, Birdie Saffern, Mrs. Charles Gumpfer.

Social Committee.—Lillie Vordermark, James Romy, Oscar Miller, Clara Piepenbrink, John Vordermark.

The next monthly meeting of the young people's society will be held Tuesday evening March 8th.

The men of the church are all asked to meet at the church parlors, Wednesday evening, March 2nd, after the prayer meeting, to organize a chapter of the Brotherhood of Andrew and Philip. We feel assured that such an organization would prove very beneficial to our men and to the church. Every male member of the church is expected to be at this meeting.

Mrs. Zumbro, residing at 20 Huron street, has been sorely afflicted ever since early last fall, and on account of this, and other sickness in the family, has been prevented from attending our church services.

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